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### Individual Note in Curtaining

Susan Z. Wilder

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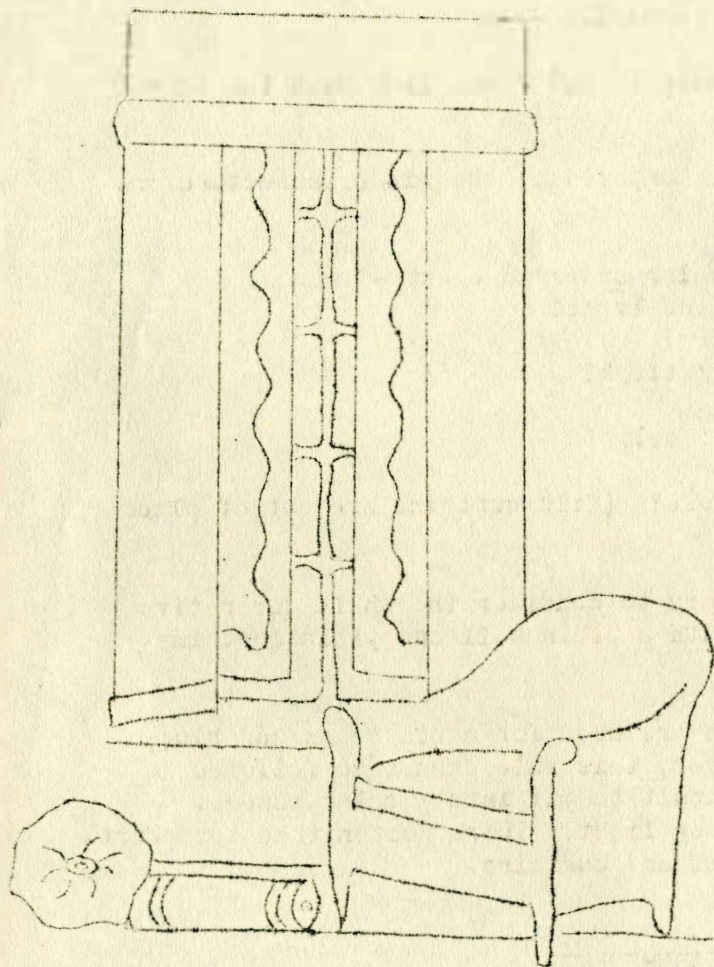
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## INDIVIDUAL NOTE IN CURTAINING

by

Susan Z. Wilder  
Extension Specialist

-oOo-



The window today gives us light, air and a view of the outside world. It has become a necessary part of the architectural scheme of every home or public building no matter how simply built. "In the middle ages it was only a slit in the wall (a breezy slit in the winter) thru which one looked for trouble". A use it has not entirely lost even at the present time!!

As the window has developed into its present place in the scheme of building there has been an ever increasing demand for ideas and materials that will help the home-maker fit the windows into the decorative scheme of the whole house both inside and out. It is only very recently that the beautiful materials for window hangings have been on the market. Competition among manufactures is keen to produce and sell curtain materials beautiful in color and design at a reasonable price. The opportunity for attractive window decorations never has been so great. In the light of the unlimited possibilities for window drapes today the following comment is interesting. This woman living in the latter part of the nineteenth century speaks of her trials in the search for window drapes. "What a rummage

there was for anything tolerable. Two or three friends of mine were in the same plight. On the whole I remember we had to fall back on turkey red cotton and dark blue serge."

The following comments are different. No doubt there is much truth in them. They ought to make the homemaker think at least when planning her window decorations.

"Windows are both public and private property. Every passerby has a right to them." "Among the myriads of windows visible in every direction, the differences of expression are as manifold as those presented by the faces on a crowded street". "Most windows seen from the street affront you. They are like the slam of a door intended to shut you out". "Sometimes, instead of flat stretches of lace, we find that which is even worse, curtains that from the side walk look like flounces of a lady's petticoat".

The beauty of a window decoration does not depend on "style" but upon the observance of certain fundamental principles -

1. Do the window draperies harmonize in color and line with the furnishings, the wall?
2. Are they in good proportion as compared to the window structure and size of the room?
3. Do the draperies in texture, color or arrangement -
  - a. Soften the glare of the light?
  - b. Shut out any ugly view?
  - c. Frame an attractive outlook?
  - d. Admit sunlight?
  - e. Add a pleasing bit of color?
4. Is the material suited to its use? (Silk curtains are out of place in a kitchen)

In selecting curtains it is necessary to consider the whole decorative scheme. Figured curtains can be used with a plain wall and plain curtains with a figured wall.

In general, yellow, browns and reds are used for north rooms and blue, greens and greys for south rooms. However, this rule cannot be followed blindly. White glass curtains are difficult to fit into a color scheme. Cream, light yellow and cerise give a softer light. There must not be too great a contrast between the color of the walls and curtains.

#### CURTAIN MEASUREMENTS

The question of curtain measurements is not a particularly interesting subject until the curtains are too short or too long or the design is upside down. Then correct measurements become a very vital question. To avoid these difficulties the window construction should be clearly in mind as well as the kind of window decoration to be used and the method of making up the curtains.

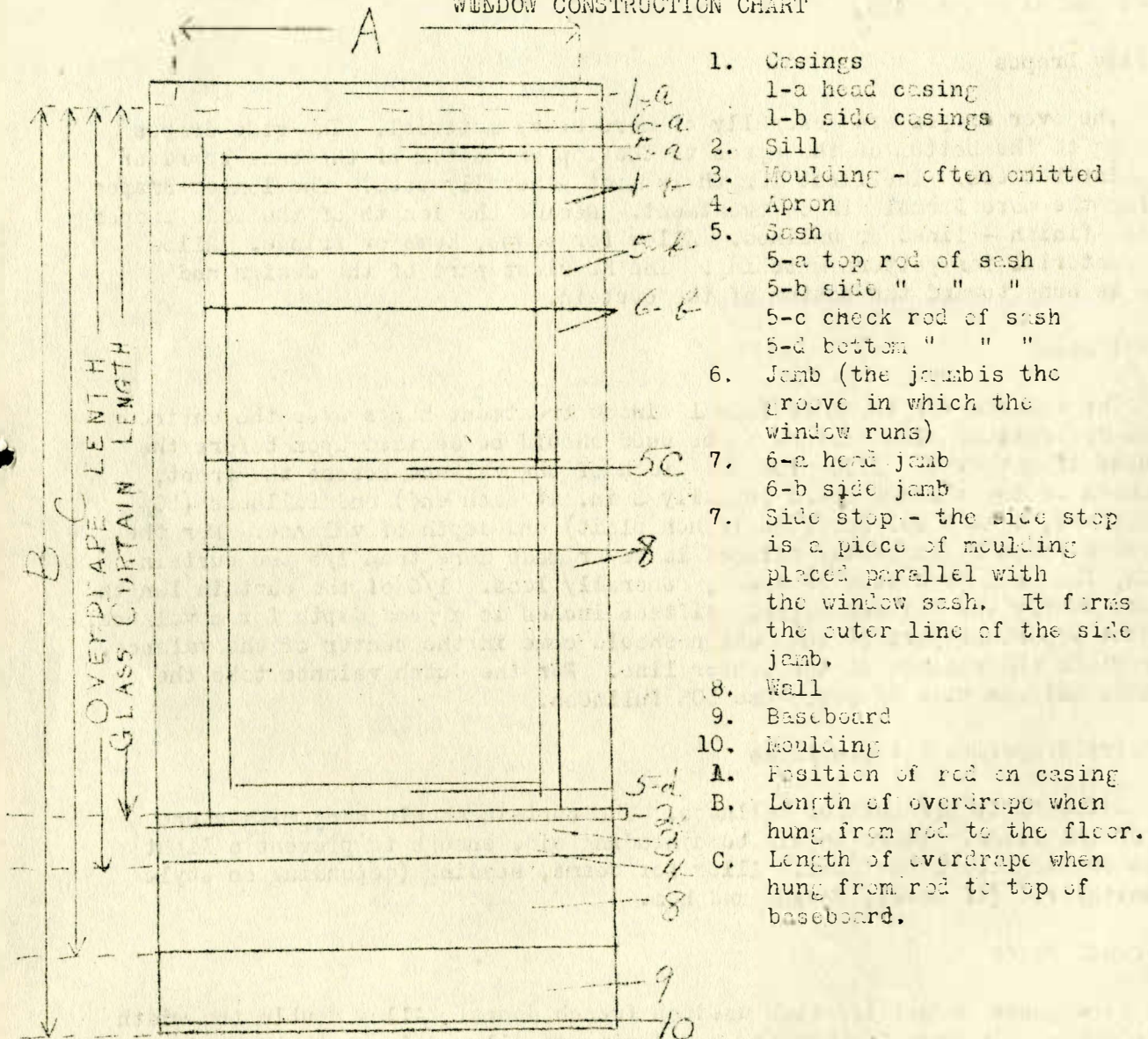
Always use a yard stick instead of tape line in measuring for curtains. The latter is very likely to slip so that the result is an inaccurate measurement. Take the measures in feet and inches instead of inches. There is less chance for mistakes.



Make a table for the record of measurements for each room where a number of windows are being measured. This will mean accurate planning and excellent results.

	Width	Length	Number windows	Total yards material
For living room				
	feet:inches	feet:inches		
Glass curtains				
Draw curtains				
Overdrapes				
Valances				

WINDOW CONSTRUCTION CHART



1. Glass Curtains

May be hung on the side jamb or side casing (most common). Glass curtains always extend to the sill regardless of the length of the over drapes. Take the width, the length between the rod fastenings nearest the glass. Allow 50% for fullness. For very sheer materials (like net) 75% is allowed for fullness. Take this length from the rod (a) to sill (2). Allow sufficient material for hem (two to three inches generally), heading (one inch), casing (one



inch) for a 3/8 inch rod, extra material for pattern matching (very important) and width of the hem, top and bottom, for shrinkage. One-half inch for each turn of the hem, top and bottom, is allowed if a triple thickness is not allowed for shrinkage.

## 2. Draw Curtains

Draw curtains are used in place of the shade. They are hung between the glass curtains and the over-drapes on a separate rod. The draw curtains extends to the sill. Determine width and allow 50% for fullness. Allow for hems (top and bottom)  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 in. hem, casing, turn of hem. Use a weighted tape to hold curtain down. Heavy wire rings are used through which to run the rod. A draw cord and pulleys are necessary if the curtains are to be opened and closed easily,

## 3. Side Drapes

The over drapes are generally of more heavy material. The side drapes may hang to the bottom of the apron to the top or bottom of the base board or any point between. The first length is most generally used. The longer drapes are for the more formal window treatment. Decide the length of the side drapes and the finish - lined or unlined. Allow for seams, hems or fringe. Allow extra material for pattern matching. The heaviest part of the design and color is hung toward the bottom of the curtain.

## 4. Valances

The valance for the more formal window treatment hangs over the entire window decoration. The fixture to be used should be decided upon before the purchase of material. Allow for the width of the valance across the front, the depth of the valance board (usually 3 in. at each end) and fullness (50% for gathers, 4 to 6 in. for each french plait) and depth of valance. For the well proportioned window the valance is never made more than  $1/5$  the curtain length, from rod to bottom of apron, generally less.  $1/6$  of the curtain length is more nearly the valance depth. Fifteen inches is a good depth for a valance. The most important part of the design should come in the center of the valance. Never piece the valance at the center line. For the dutch valance take the distance between side drapes. Use 50% fullness.

## 5. Heavy draperies between rooms

Allow fifty percent for fullness. The curtain should hang within one inch of the floor. There should be a heading wide enough to prevent a light streak showing above the door. Allow for seams, heading (depending on style of finish) rod (if used), casing and hem.

## 6. French Doors

Fine gauze or net is often used on french doors. Allow double the width for fullness. An inch for heading and casing is allowed for both top and bottom. The curtains are made to just cover the length of the glass. The brackets which hold the curtains are placed close to the glass.

## 7. Sash Curtains

The rod for the upper sash curtain is placed on the top rail of sash 5-a. The rod for the lower sash curtain is fastened on the check rail 5-c of the sash so that it is not visible from the outside. The upper sash curtain

is measured from the center of the top rail of sash 5-a to the bottom of the check rail 5-c. The lower sash curtain is measured from the center of the check rail 5-c of sash to the top of sill 2. Allow one inch each for hem and heading, one-half inch for turn of hem and three-fourths to one inch for casing for rod.

## 8. Window Shades

When buying or making a shade, measure from the point of hanging to the sill plus nine inches. This allows for hem and enough extra material to prevent pulling the shade off the roller. A window shade may be hung on the side jamb b-b near the top, on the side top 7 at top, on the head casing 1-a or side casing 1-b near top. The question of where to place the shade is decided by the window decoration to be used. If glass curtains, side drapes and a valance are used it will be almost necessary to place the shade within the window frame either on the side stop or side jamb.

If the shade is hung on the casing it is generally cut three inches wider than the window opening in order to allow for a good lap so as to admit no light when the shade is drawn. The brackets should be placed between 2 and 3 inches out from the window opening onto the casing. When shade is placed on the side jamb, measure for roller  $1/8$  in. less than the distance between the side jambs. Length of roller is from end to end of metal projections.

When the shade is placed on the side stop the width of shade is the length of the roller minus the thickness of the two side stops and  $1/8$  inch. Careful measurements will have to be taken for the roller when it is hung on the side jambs or side stops. Only about  $1/8$  inch play is allowed. The roller must snap into place easily and yet remain securely.

The shade is one-half to one inch less in width than the roller regardless of the placing on the window frame. This allows for any irregularity in rolling the shade. The shade is not as likely to get out of place and have the edges rolled.

## 9. Trimmings

Fringes and braids take up in sewing. For that reason two inches extra should be allowed for every yard. For ruffles on thin curtains allow 70 percent for fullness. Net requires double the length for ruffles; ruching the same. If fringe is set on the bottom of the curtain the length will have to be considered when taking length of curtain.

## WINDOW TREATMENT - General

### 1. Window of the Right Proportion for the room.

Where the frame is of good workmanship and style the curtains are hung within the frame.

The plan most commonly used is to have the curtain, overdrapes and valance cover the woodwork. When they cover the woodwork entirely the window seems to stand out in the room. Instead the window when trimmed should give the feeling of being recessed.



2. Window too tall for the room.

When the window decorations are complete the effect should be that of a well proportioned window. It should seem to belong to the room. The decoration will have to be built out beyond the window frame. To get the desired effect blocks of wood are placed at the side of the window at the top so that the side drapes extend onto the wall. The valance is made deep and hung so that the top edge comes just to the top of the window frame.

3. Window too short for the room.

Hang the side drapes to the floor. The valance may be omitted entirely or only a narrow strip hung across the top. This will carry over the color of the side drapes and give a more finished effect to the window. The covered pole is ugly. It is not good and is not used.

4. Window too small for the room.

Hang the side drapes on the wall as in number one. Arrange the valance so that the lower edge comes just to the top of the glass. This treatment leaves the entire window pane exposed to the room and gives the effect of a window much larger than it really is.

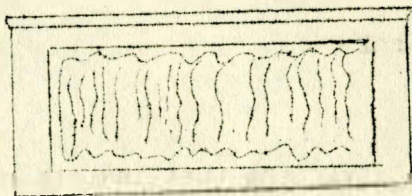
5. Window too large for the room.

Soften the light by using a glass curtain that covers the entire window. Something cream, ecru, or light yellow will give a pleasing effect. Bring the side drapes and valance entirely within the frame. The valance may be deeper than that for the well proportioned window. The drapes may be made wider.

6. Bow Windows - Deeply recessed.

- a. Hang side drapes to the floor and a valance across the top at the entrance to the windows. Hang a softer, lighter weight material of harmonious color at the windows as glass curtains.
- b. Hang long curtains to the floor at the side of the windows and a valance of the same material across the entire top of windows. Short curtains to the bottom of the apron may be used between the windows. Use glass curtains at the windows.

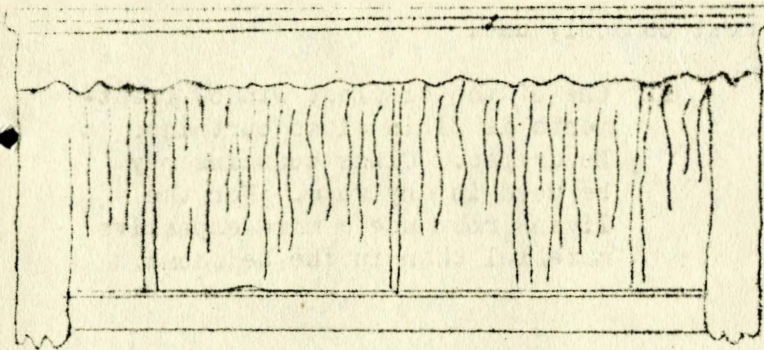
7. Small, narrow windows above Larger windows.



Shirred Net

This type of window is often built high in the wall. The need is to soften the outline and make it fit into the color scheme of the room. A shirring of fine net or other glass curtaining like that used at the larger windows in the room will generally give the right decorative note. The material may be shirred at top and bottom and hung on brass rods or shirred only on a rod across the top. These windows are generally too small to use over drapes.

8. Group of windows Draped as one window.

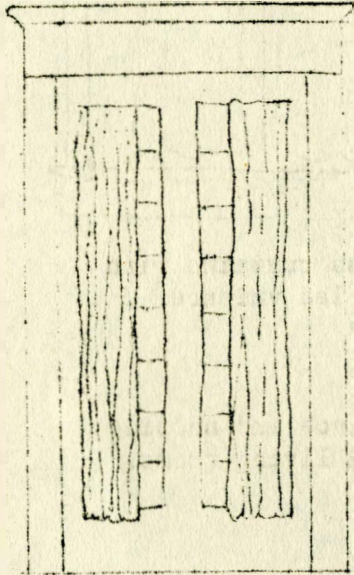


Three Window treatment as one.

A group of small or large windows may be draped so as to give the general appearance of one window. Use a straight glass curtain (two to a window). Hang over drapes at the side and a narrow straight gathered or plaited valance across the top.

9. French Doors

These may be used without curtains. However, the effect in the room is generally more pleasing if glass curtaining material is used on the doors. Shirr the material on a rod top and bottom (usual method). Fasten securely near the glass. The material may hang loose. In this case it is finished with a heavy fringe or even a ruffle.



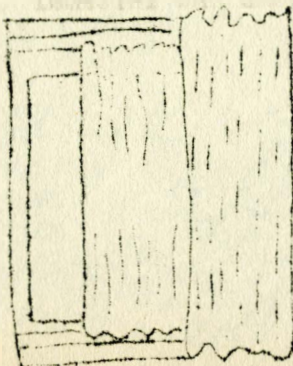
Side draperies on French doors are only used in the more elaborately furnished homes.

The same rule holds for casement windows which open in, as for French doors. The curtain is hung on the window sash so that it will move with the window.

10. Casement Windows.

Casement windows that swing out.

The curtains are hung on a rod inside (generally) with a draw cord or pulley) so the curtain is out of the way and well protected when the window is open. Shades are not used



for casement windows if a closely woven material is used at the windows as draw curtains with or without glass curtains. Pongee, taffeta, sunfast or muslin may be used. A valance may be used but it is often difficult to get good effects because the windows are small. When no valance is used the rods are painted the same color as the woodwork. With casement windows the over draperies never extends below the lower edge of the apron.

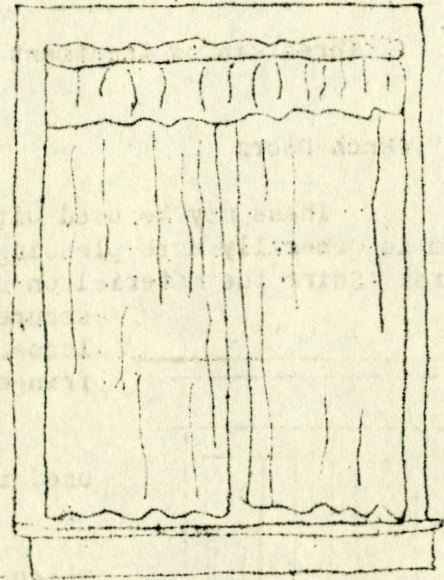


## WINDOW TREATMENT

Types of drapes most commonly used



1. Glass curtains only



2. Glass curtains with ruffled valance.

2. Glass curtains may be used with a gathered or plain valance and no side drapes for bedrooms particularly and may be used in informal living rooms.

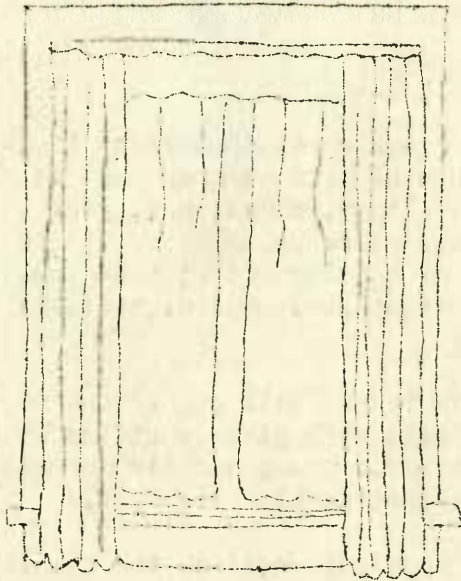


3. Side drapes  
No valance.

3. Side drapes and no valance. Glass curtains are hung straight. Hang the side drapes so that they cover the window casing.

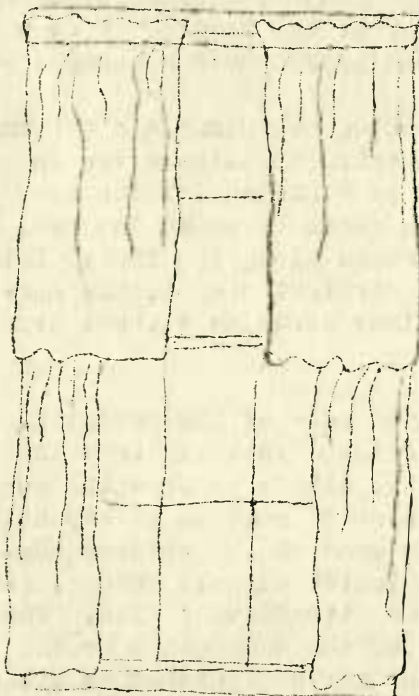
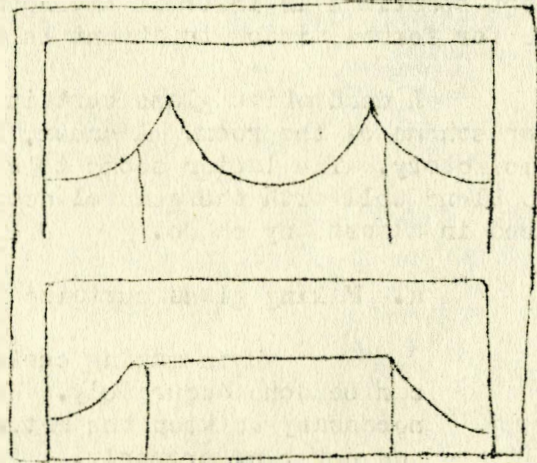
May be hung straight or held in place with tie backs.

May be used in bedrooms and informal living rooms.



4. The glass curtain may be used with plain over drapes and a Dutch valance, which is only a ruffle of the same material as the side drapes and hung on the same rod as the side drapes. This window treatment looks best in bedrooms. It may be used in informal living rooms. The window has a somewhat unfinished appearance. The first type of window treatment is to be preferred to the second for living rooms.

5. Over drapes with a shaped valance, plain gathered box plaits or with French plaits may be used with side drapes over glass curtains. Used in living rooms and dining rooms particularly. May be used in bedrooms.



#### 6. Sash curtains -

An upper and lower tier of glass curtains - used in bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchens. Sometimes used in living rooms. In this case, made of sheer bright color.



## HOW TO MAKE AND HANG CURTAINS

### 1. Glass Curtains.

The glass curtain is the curtain that hangs nearest the window light. If it is to soften the light of the room and to be used with over drapes, it is made of sheer fabric such as voile, handkerchief linen, swiss, net, gauze, flaxon, dimity, organdy or fine marquisette. If the glass curtains are to be used without over drapes, they are generally made of heavier material because they blend better with other furnishing materials -- pongee, muslin, taffets, casement cloth, voiles, marquisette and scrim.

The glass curtains hang in straight folds to the sill regardless of the length of the over drapes. Tie backs are not used with glass curtains except sometimes in informal living rooms and bedrooms. The generally accepted rule for formal window treatment is that the glass curtain hang straight.

A dead white glass curtain is difficult to handle well in the general color scheme of the room. A cream, light yellow or ecru is generally more satisfactory. The latter seems to soften the sunlight glare and at the same time blend well with the general decorative scheme. Glass curtains can be purchased in almost any shade.

#### a. Making glass curtains

When making curtains use a large table so that all cutting can be done accurately. When making lined curtains it is absolutely necessary to keep the materials flat, otherwise the curtains may draw and not hang properly.

If over drapes are used only a one inch heading is made. This will allow for a  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch rod to run through nicely. Small metal rings may be used for the rod instead of casing. These are sewed at regular intervals (every three inches) on the top edge so that the curtain can be opened and closed easily by means of a draw cord. Patented hooks are sometimes sewed to the back of the heading at even spaces (three inches). The curtain is then hooked over a special rod.

If the glass curtain is used without over drapes a two inch double heading is planned. One-half inch extra is allowed for the turn under hem. One inch of this is used as a casing for the rod. The curtains may be shirred onto a tape in place of using the rod. Rings or hooks are placed at regular intervals along the tape. This method always insures even shirring and a straight hang to the curtains. A French heading may be used in glass curtains without over drapes. (Detail later).

The selvage is left on the outside edge of the material. It is clipped every three or four inches or removed entirely from the inside edge because if used in the hem it is likely to draw the curtain in laundering. A small dart on the side of curtain at top helps to prevent sagging at side. No hem may be used on the outside edge or a hem of the same width as that of the inside edge  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, but narrower than that used on the bottom is an attractive finish. The hem on the inside edge of the curtain may be the same width as the bottom hem. In this case the inside corner may be finished as a handkerchief hem or mitered.

The widest hem on a glass curtain is used at the bottom. A wide hem adds to the weight and helps to keep the curtain in good line. The top hem and the bottom may be made of tripple thickness. This will allow for lengthening the curtain after laundering.

If all hems are put in glass curtains by hand in a medium running stitch, curtains will hang better and any changes due to laundering can be easily made.

A heavy fringe of the same width as the hem may be used across the bottom of glass curtains (tho it is not necessary). The hem is turned to the right side (room side) and the fringe placed over the raw edge (which is not turned under) so that it hangs just to bottom of curtain. The fringe may be of the same tone as the curtain or different. Drapery departments are showing glass curtains in shades of cream and yellow with fringe to match. Fringe may be used on the bottom of the curtain in place of hem. Many of these fringes have a black thread line at the top - a very pleasing contrast!

The sheer glass curtains may have hemstitched hems, plain or piquoted ruffles of the same or contrasting colors. Narrow lace and fringe is also used. The heavier glass curtains may have the plain hems, the fringe, bandings of the same or contrasting colors. The heavier curtains require the plainer treatment. They should have a more tailored look.

The plain glass curtain is used in living rooms, dining rooms whether of the sheer or heavy material. The ruffled glass curtains are generally used in bedrooms, sometimes in living rooms. Where glass curtains are used without cover drapes, the rod (if conspicuous) is painted the same color as the woodwork.

#### b. Where to hang the glass curtains.

As near the glass as possible. It may be hung on the sash, the side jamb or the casing. The type of window, whether with or without window shades or over drapes are factors to be considered. Probably the most common position is on the casing.

## 2. Side Drapes

#### a. The following materials are used for side drapes.

Sunfasts, cretonnes, silk, poplin, velours.

Side drapes may be either long or short depending upon the desired effect. The long drapes are generally used in the more formal room. The side drapes may come to sill, lower edge of apron, to base board, floor or any point between apron and baseboard. Short drapes to the bottom of apron are most commonly used. If a valance is used over the whole window trim, no heading is used. The side drape may be shirred onto a rod.

Side drape may be on same rod as glass curtain, on separate rod (usual method) or on specially constructed rods or may have hooks sewed at top and then hooked over its own rod. May be tacked to a valance board. Side drapes are unlined in informal window trims. Drapes of heavy materials are generally lined, giving a more pleasing finished effect. If the light shines through the over drapes giving unpleasing effect, they are lined.



Side drapes should not be skimped. Generally they should be one-half the material. Side drapes may be finished with gimp, upholster's fringe or narrow hem.

Tie backs may be used with the longer side drapes. They help to keep the curtain clean. Whether the tie back is used or not depends upon the desired window effect. If a window is short it is better to leave side drapes in straight line. Tie backs may be a silk cord with tassels, fringe or pieces of material either straight or fitted.

The outside line of the over drape must hang straight with casing. To get this effect weights are often used in the lower edge of the drape. String weights or separate weights may be bought.

### 3. Valance

Valance patterns in cloth may be purchased by the yard in any large drapery department.

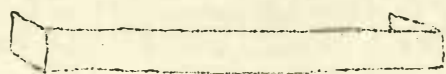
Tissue paper patterns with different styles of valance can also be purchased. Detailed instruction for making are given with each.

Shaped valance patterns can be made and used successfully by any housewife if she will study carefully the window treatment best suited to her room and then do the work painstakingly. Plan the design on paper, cut it out and then try it at the window. The paper can be folded at the center of window and one-half of the design worked out at a time. The pattern is then placed on the material, pinned and cut out.

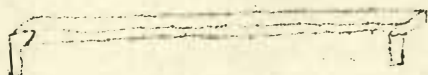
#### a. Simple lined valance - how to make.

Cut the lining (sateen generally) the same width but an inch longer than the material. Place the right sides together. Pin or paste materials together so that the extra length of lining is at the bottom. Stitch a seam along both sides and top. Use a long stitch and loose tension. Press the seams. Turn the valance right side out. Place the valance flat on the table and pin carefully so that there will be no slack in the valance length. If a fringe is to be used as a finish at the lower edge, the following method is used: Place the wrong side of the fringe to the right side of the lining at the bottom with the top side of the edge of the braid even and toward the raw edge of the lining. Stitch. Turn the heading of the braid back onto the right side of the curtain (may be necessary to trim lining edge slightly). Stitch. This gives a neat, trim finish to a simple lined valance.

#### b. Hanging of the valance.



Valance board



Valance board with bracket placed on front of casing.

A window always looks more finished if the valance is hung on a separate rod or from a valance board so that it drops over the whole curtain trim. The valance is not particularly difficult to drape.

The valance board is generally cut three inches wide, and as long

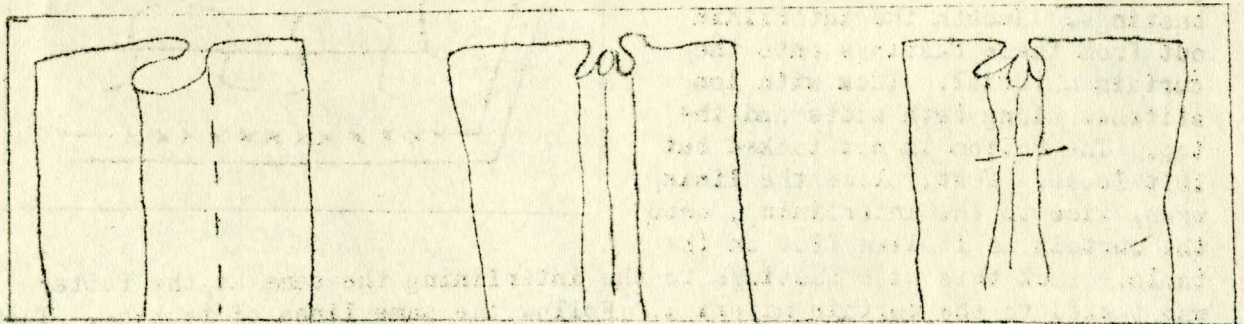
as the width of the window decoration. It may be nailed or screwed to the top of the window casing. The "handy man" can very easily cut this board and set it in place. The valance board sometimes rests on metal brackets which are screwed onto the casing below the top of the window. The placing depends on the window treatment decided upon. The valance is tacked to the wooden board by a tape which is sewed at the back of the valance near the top. Different styles of metal valance board are manufactured and sold on the market by reputable drapery companies. The valance may be hung on the rod by forming a casing and running the rod through it. This is the easiest but not the method that gives the most attractive results for formal window treatment. The valance may be hemmed, faced at the top or lined. Metal rings through which the rod can be slipped are sewed on the back near the top, at equal distances. Metal hooks may be used instead of the rings. The valance is hung by throwing the hooks over the rod. The rings and hooks make it easy to adjust the valance very readily.

When a valance board of any kind is used it is necessary to make the valance long enough so that it can be brought around the corners and fastened securely at the ends to the wall. Sometimes a hook and eye arrangement is made use of to keep the valance always in place near the casing. No light must show through at the ends.

#### 4. French Heading or Pinch Plait

The French heading is used extensively on both lined and unlined valances and curtains. Patterns showing how to make the French heading may be purchased. However, a little care in measuring and work will produce the right results without the patterns.

Find the length of the valance (width of window). Add to this twice the depth from the turn (corner) to the wall. Allow the necessary distance for each plait - four inches. Plaits with French heading are generally three to six inches apart. Four French plaits to the average size window makes an attractive window. The plaits are stitched four inches down from the top, heavy materials six inches.

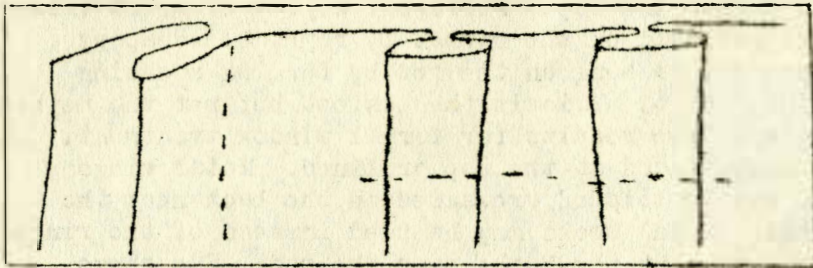


#### How to make French heading

Divide each plait into three plaits of equal size. Hold in place and sew through with a strong thread three to four inches from the top. The three plaits are sometimes crushed together and sewed. The three tiny plaits stand out separately if used in the valance or in a curtain without a valance. If the pinch plaits are used in a curtain under a valance the top of the plaits are flattened out and stitched down.



position is placed at the back of the plain where the three plaits are sowed. This may be a hook or ring. Where the pinch plaits are used on unlined valance or curtain a wide heading four to six inches is used. This gives a better body to the plaits and makes them stand up properly.



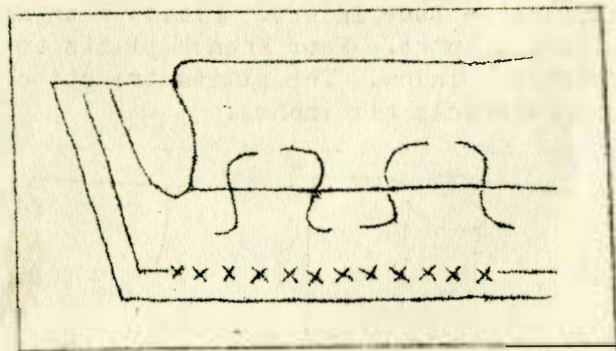
#### 5. Box plait heading.

Box plaited heading is made the same as the french heading with this exception that the material is flattened out as one plait and stitched across three to four inches down from the top. If used on a valance or curtain without a valance

the plaits are pressed and left to stand out. If used under a valance the top edge of the box plaits are stitched down.

#### 6. Heavy draperies. Making.

Cut the material for the curtain in valance. Place it flat on the table. Turn the four edges over onto the wrong side, pin and catstitch them down lightly so that the thread will not show through onto the right side. The interlining is smoothened out over the curtain on the wrong side. It is cut one-half inch smaller than the outside. The interlining is folded back on itself until the lengthwise center line corresponds with that of the drape. The two are then tacked together, along that line by a short stitch taken first in the interlining and then in the curtain material. The thread is not drawn tight otherwise the curtain will not hang correctly. Repeat this basting along four lines parallel with the center line allowing equal distances between all four bastings. Smooth the interlining out from these bastings onto the curtain material. Tack with long stitches along both sides and the top. The bottom is not tacked but left loose. Next, place the lining, wrong side to the interlining, onto the curtain as it lies flat on the table. Tack this with bastings to the interlining the same as the latter was tacked to the curtain material. Follow the same lines of tacking. Turn the edges of the lining under on both sides and the top and hem down. Hem the bottom separately and allow it to hang loose. These draperies are finished with a french heading, preferably, a box plaited heading or shirred heading.



The interlinings are usually of cotton material which has a nap on both sides. Sateen is generally used for the lining for drapes. Silk materials are also used. The lining should be of substantial material and harmonize in material and color with the overdrapes.

Portiers may be made of a double faced material, however, they are often lined with a sateen or silk that will harmonize with the color scheme of the room.

Heavy drapes are weighted at the bottom by sewing string weights in the hem. These draperies are often fastened to the window casing by a small brass ring sewed to the outer edge of the curtain at the bottom of the casing. The ring fastens over a small hook. Thus the outer edge is held straight.

## 7. Window Shades

Window shades can be purchased in almost any color so that it should be possible to select something that will blend well with both the inside and outside of the house. The two tone shades are a great help in making just the right selection. Besides the standard makes of window shades, there are the different materials from which the housewife can make her own shades. Linen crash, and unbleached muslin are the plain materials that are used. Glazed chintz, tinted cambric and cretonnes are the figured materials often used.

The homemade shades may have a narrow hem (one inch) down the sides. A wide hem or a scalloped hem at the bottom may be finished plain, with braid, binding or crocheted. The stick may be run through hem at bottom. A casing is set on when scallops are used. Flowered shades as chintz and cretonne shades are used with glass curtains or with plain overdrapes.

If window shades are badly worn at the lower end the hem may be ripped out and the ends changed on the roller. In putting in a new hem, fold under the raw edge and stitch on the machine. Lengthen the stitch and loosen the tension of the machine, otherwise the curtain will be badly cut with the needle.

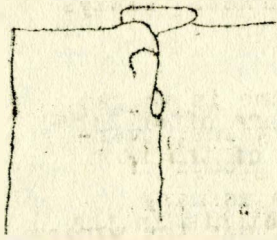
In purchasing window shades always buy from a reputable company. A cheap shade is not worth the purchase price. It will crack, get out of shape and fade too easily. The cheap shades are very likely to have poor springs. Whenever buying a shade examine the method of fastening the shade to the roller. Small tacks are not the best. The shade tears away from them too easily. Wide brads are being used by some shade companies and are proving very satisfactory.

## CURTAIN FIXTURES

There are a limitless variety of curtain fixtures on the market. Always buy a standard make.

All types of curtains should be hung on a separate rod if one is to get the best effect. This will mean three rods when using glass curtains, overdrapes and valance. These may be bought as separate rods or in groups of three. The latter has this advantage - that it does not require as many screws to hold it in place as the single rods and therefore will mar the window casing less. When the glass curtain is hung on the sash or side jamb it will require a separate rod. Then a double rod is used for over drapes and valance. Both flat and round curtain rods can be purchased. Generally small hooks





Hook at back of  
French plait.

are sewed to the backs of the curtains at the top to hold them in place on the flat rods. Curtains that are to be drawn must be hung on rings either sewed at the back or on the top edge of the curtain depending upon the final window decoration. Any curtain may be hung on rings. The rings require a round rod.

A Single and double pulley with eight to ten feet of cord is required for curtains that are to be drawn.

The valance pole is bunglesome and ugly. In its place use a rod or valance board. Paint any exposed part the color of the woodwork. The valance board is from 3 to 5 inches in width and as wide as the window decoration. It is nailed or screwed to the top of the casing or fastened at any place on the casing by brackets. One may be made at home. A hollow rectangle of metal from the top of which the valance hangs by hooks can be bought. There may be a place on this fixture from which to hang the over drapes. The board or rod must allow the valance to drop over the entire window decoration.

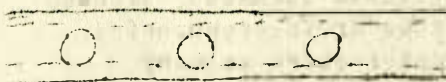
Plan the window decoration so that the curtain fixtures are always inconspicuous. A well balanced, beautifully decorated window is the result sought. If the mechanics are in evidence the beauty is destroyed.

#### CURTAIN ACCESSORIES

Fringes and bandings can be purchased in any color. There is hardly a curtain material but that can be matched in trimmings. The possibilities seem endless. Patterns for tie backs for curtains can be purchased but any homemaker can make them. Single or double cords of the same or contrasting color make attractive tie backs. Plain straight bands of two inch width may be used. ~~on~~ Shaped bands are perhaps more attractive. The same trimmings may be used on the tie backs as on the curtain. If the curtains are plain the tie backs should be also. Rosettes - four to five inches in diameter and covered with the material and edged with trimming may be used.

A hook and eye attachment may be used to hold the tie back in place. Large button molds may be covered with the same material as the curtain and used very effectively to hold the curtain in place. There are also metal and glass rosettes that can be purchased and used in place of the hooks.

The tie back is fastened to the casing at the center of the lower window pane.



String weights

String weights are tiny pieces of lead that are sewed into strips of cloth and sold by the yard. These can be purchased in five weights. They are sewed to the edge or in the hem of glass curtains and over drapes in order to keep them in place, and make them fall in graceful folds. Weights are sometimes attached to the bottom outer corner of over drapes in

order to hold the curtain edge in a straight line with the casing. No matter how the curtains are looped back the outer edge must hang straight with the window frame. The weight will secure this.

## DRY CLEANING CURTAINS

There are very few curtains that will not look better dry cleaned than washed. A fairly good rule to follow is this: If in doubt as to the outcome in washing curtains always dry clean them. Washing curtains in water is the last method that should be used. It is likely to destroy or deaden the color, remove the lustre which can never be brought back and pull the curtains out of shape so that they will not hang well.

Any housewife can dry clean her own curtains. To get excellent results it is only necessary for her to observe a few simple rules in handling the gasoline.

Precautions when cleaning with gasoline:

1. Buy a high test gasoline.
2. Always use gasoline outdoors.
3. Work in the shade.
4. Do not rub the material too vigorously in the hands.
5. Never use a board.
6. Never heat gasoline on the stove. It may explode. Heat water hot - not boiling - carry it outside the house. Remove the top from the gasoline can and set the can into the water to heat.
7. Do not press the curtains after they are cleaned in gasoline until thoroughly dry.

Take down the curtains, brush well or hang them in the wind so that all loose dirt is removed. Soak the curtains in the gasoline a half hour. Stir them about in the gasoline and squeeze the gasoline through them but do not rub. Ring the curtains dry. Hang them in the sun. Leave them outdoors from three to twelve hours so that they will dry thoroughly and lose most of the gasoline odor. If the curtains can be left out over night all the better. Bring the curtains in, dampen and press with a hot iron.

There are special soaps on the market to use with gasoline for cleaning purpose. It is not necessary to buy the soap unless the curtains are very badly soiled. Even then it is not always necessary. The curtains may be washed in one pan of gasoline and rinsed in a second. The gas removes all grease. The dirt will drop out. Any spot that remains after the cleaning with gasoline is probably some substance that will not dissolve in gasoline. A careful sponging in clear soft water with a cloth of similar color (dark on dark curtains, white on light) will clean up everything. Gasoline will not effect the color of the fabric no matter how delicate.

Many times curtains may be freshened by dusting, hanging in the wind a few hours, dampening and pressing.



# DRY CLEANING WINDOW SHADES

Take the shade from the window, unroll it and place it flat on the table, outdoors. Wipe off all dust with a dry cloth. Wring a cloth from gasoline and sponge lightly over the shade. It may be necessary to go over the shade a number of times. Turn the shade over and treat the other side the same way as the first. Allow the shade to dry thoroughly out doors before returning to the room. The sunlight will quickly remove all odor.

## CHART OF WIDTHS AND COST OF CURTAIN MATERIALS FROM SIOUX FALLS

### Glass Curtains

	<u>Width</u>	<u>Price</u>
Plain scrim (in white)	36 in.	.25
Voile (white and natural)		
" (colored)	36-40 "	.39-.65
Marquisette (white or natural)		
(colored)	36.-40 "	.25-.50
Plain net	36-50 "	.49-2.00
Figured net	36-48 "	.65-2.50
Small figured net	" "	" "
Dotted swiss	36	.29-.35
Gauze (silk)	36-50	.95-2.50
" (sunfast)	" "	" "
" (natural color)	" "	" "
Pongee	32	1.00-1.50
Casement cloth (silk)	36	1.00-1.75
" " (cotton)	36	.65-1.85

### Overdrapes

Gingham (for ruffles on kitchen curtain)	30	.29- .59
Organdies (white)	40	1.29-2.00
Damasks, silk	50	3.00-2.00
" , cotton	"	" "
Velours	50	3.00-10.00
Drapery Taffetas	50	2.50- 3.95
Cretonnes	36	.25-1.50

Overdrapes (con't.)

Repps (cotton)	50 in.	\$1.00-3.00
Chintz, glazed, figured	36	.75-7.50
Denim	36	.70-1.50
Poplin	36	.95-1.25
	50	1.25-2.50
Tapestry	50	3.00-10.00
Madras	50	2.50-5.00

REFERENCES

Twenty magazine articles and six trade booklets as well as the following references were reviewed in the preparation of this demonstration.

"Drapery Fabrics and Fashions for Doors and Windows" -- Good Housekeeping

Needle Art - Autumn 1924

"Curtains and Draperies" by Mrs. Charles Bradley Sanders

"Home Decorator Patterns" -- Pictorial Review

"Service Material on Curtains" -- Butterick Publishing Co.

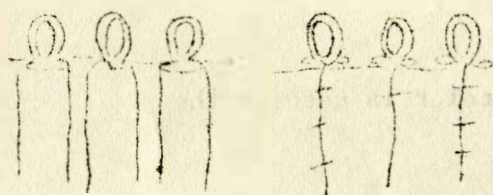


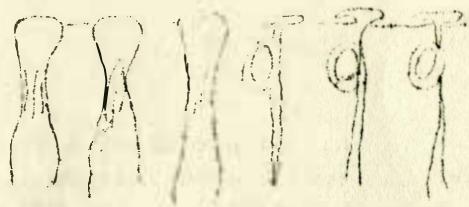
Fig. 1 - Box plait heading

Hem two inches. Sometimes a triple hem is used to give extra weight, to prevent the light showing through and to lengthen curtain in case of shrinkage. The plait is made the desired width. The back edges may be caught together as indicated in the drawing or the plait is sewed down by hand four to six inches and pressed flat. The rings

are sewed crosswise of the plaits so that the curtain will run easily on the rod. Hooks may be used in place of the rings. If the box plait heading is used on side drapes under a valance the rings or hooks are sewed on the top but if used on side drapes with a valance or on a valance they are sewed at the back of the plait as indicated in Figure 2.

Fig. 2 - French heading

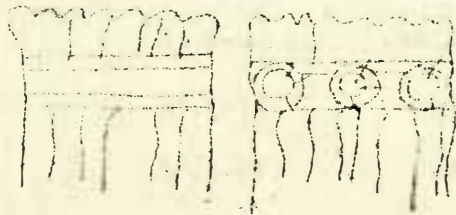
This heading is made the same as the box plait heading. Two or three pinch plaits are made in the box plait. The ring or hook is sewed one to two inches below the top of the heading in the crease between the edges.



Front view

Back view





Front view

Back view

Fig. 3 - Cord shirred heading

Used without valance. Make a three inch heading. Make two one-fourth inch casings, one at the bottom of the heading and the second, one inch above. Run a cord thru each casing and draw the curtain to the desired width. Sew on the rings as indicated. Hooks may be used in place of the rings.

Fig. 4 - Plain shirred heading.

Make two turn overs of two inches one at the top and one at the bottom of curtain. Make the rod casing three-fourths to one inch wide from the seam into the heading. Flat rods give the best results.

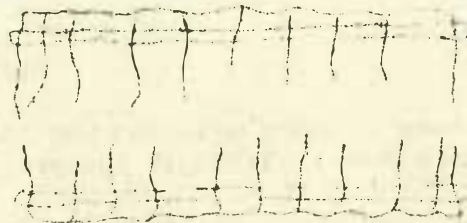


Fig. 5 - Plain shirred heading

Make a heading of two to two and one-half inch heading. The casing is made one inch wide and above the base seam.

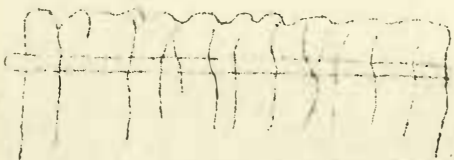


Fig. 6, 8, 10 and 16

A fitted facing of the same or contrasting color is used on the right side.

Fig. 7, 9, 15, 19

A fringe is used as an edge finish.

Fig. 13 and 18.

A ruffle is used as an edge.

Fig. 14

This figure shows a valance board in position. Tiny staples may be placed at regular intervals on the edge of the board. Small hooks are sewed on a tape at the back of the valance near the top. The valance is then hooked onto the board.

SUGGESTIONS FOR DRAPERIES

LAMBREQUINS

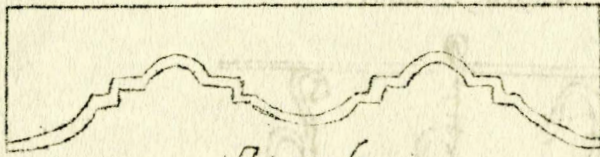


Fig 6

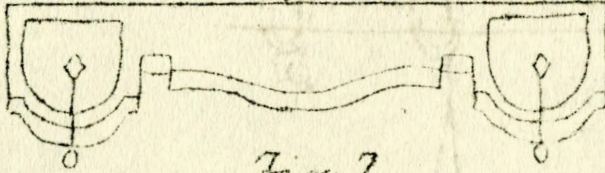


Fig 7

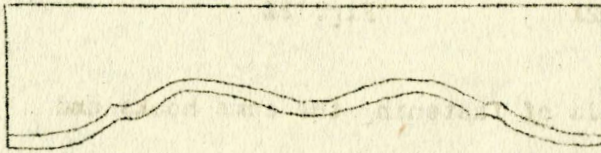


Fig 8



Fig 9



Fig 10



Fig. 15

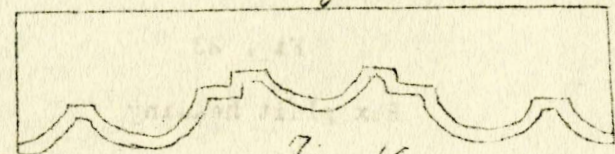


Fig 16

VALANCES

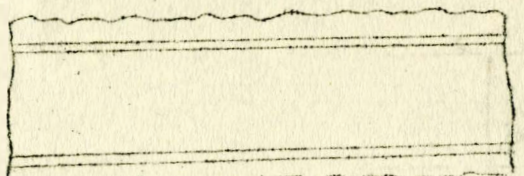


Fig 11

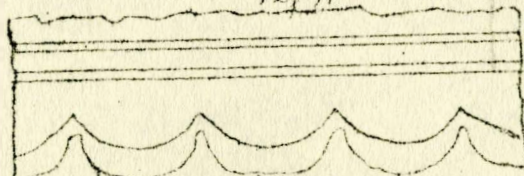


Fig. 12

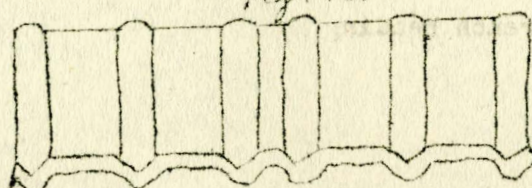


Fig 13

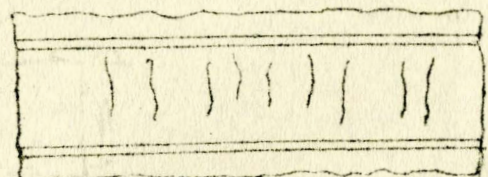


Fig 17

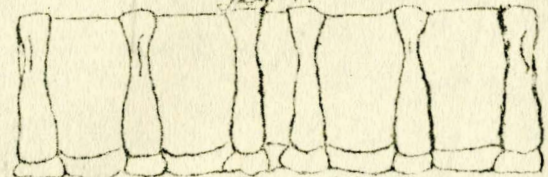


Fig 18

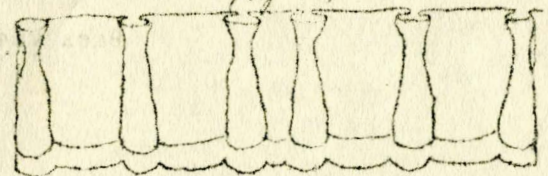


Fig 19

VALANCE BOARD

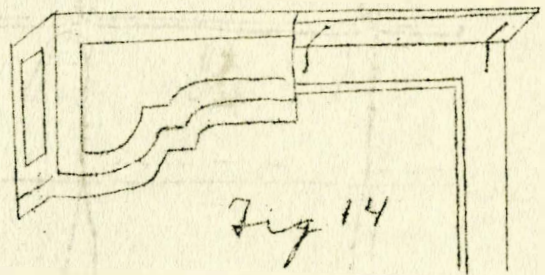
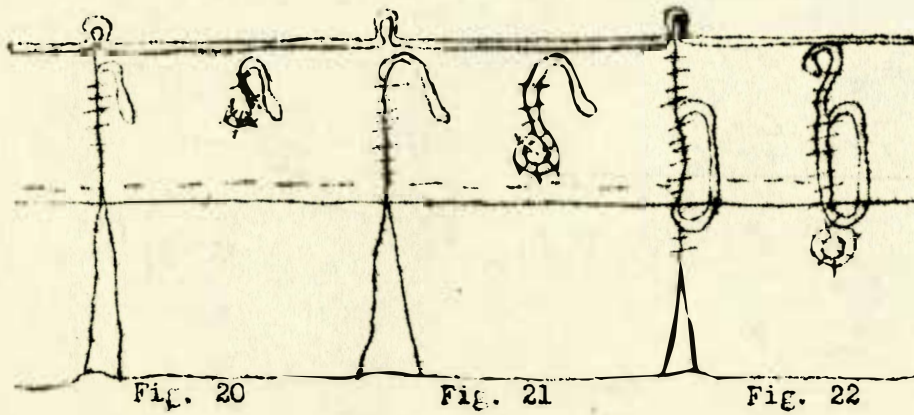


Fig 14



The following suggestions in curtain construction have been taken from the Kirsch Window and Door Draping Manual:



Diagrams showing two methods of fastening the same hooks and rings to drapery.

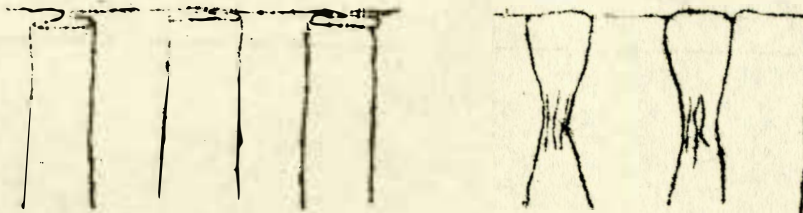


Fig. 23

Fig. 24

Box plait heading

French heading

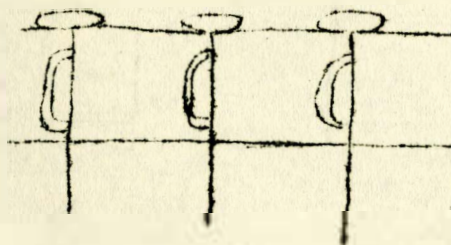


Fig. 25

Back view of French heading

Making Finch Plait Valance

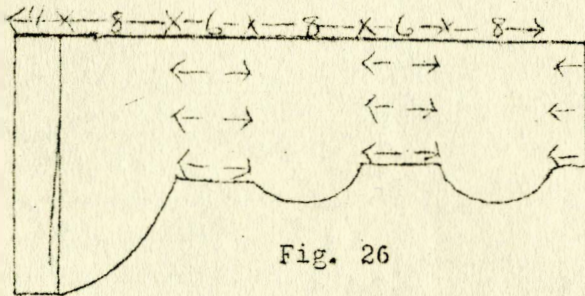


Figure 26 shows one-half of valance. The scallops are 8 inches, 4 small and 2 large scallops in valance. Six inches is allowed for each plait (5 plaits in all). The arrows show the points that are drawn together. Four inches allowed at the turn of valance, one-half inch for seams. Requires 37 inches of material for valance.

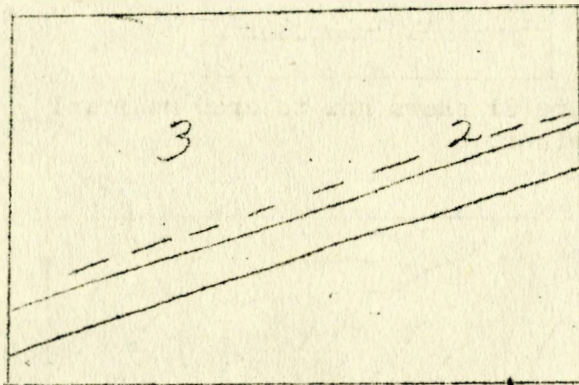


Figure 27 shows right side of valance.

- 1 - lining
- 2 - basting
- 3 - material

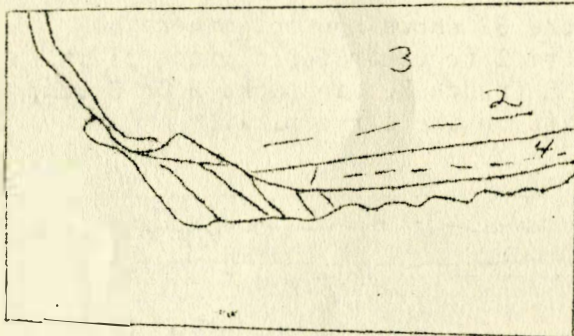


Figure 28 shows right side of valance.

- 1 - lining
- 2 - basting
- 3 - material
- 4 - stitching which holds fringe to lining.
- 5 - fringe

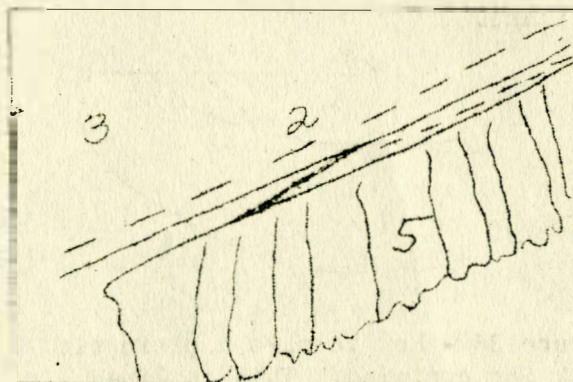


Figure 29 shows right side of valance.

- 1 - lining
- 2 - basting
- 3 - material
- 4 - stitching which shows as fringe is turned up to right side
- 5 - fringe



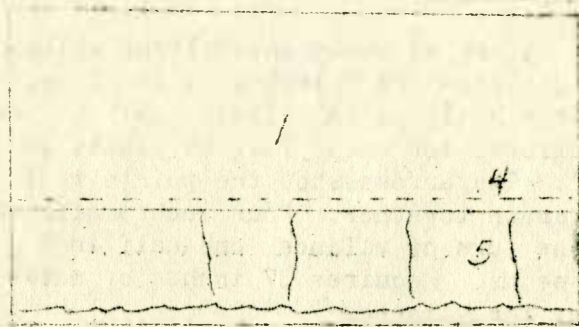


Figure 30 shows wrong side of valance.

- 1 - lining
- 4 - stitching
- 5 - fringe

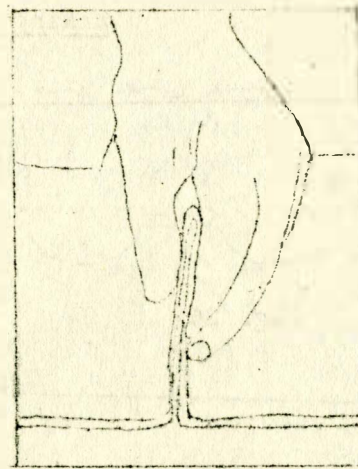


Figure 31 shows how to draw material together.

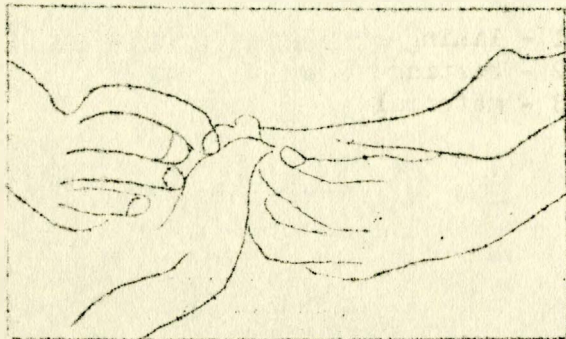


Figure 32 shows how to sew in ring thru which rod runs

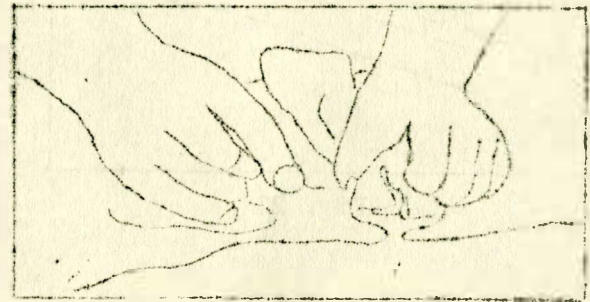


Figure 33 shows how to gather the material together for a pinch plait. For a French Heading make 2 Or 3 tiny plaits on the large plait.

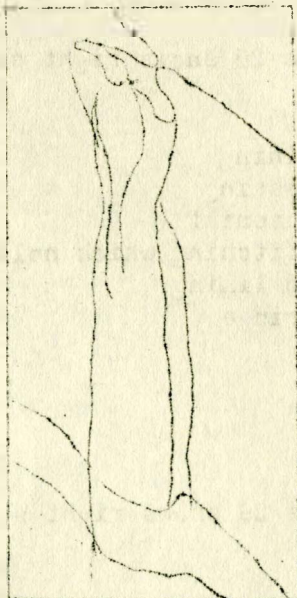


Figure 34 shows the finished plait. The pinch plait may be used on side drapes without valance.

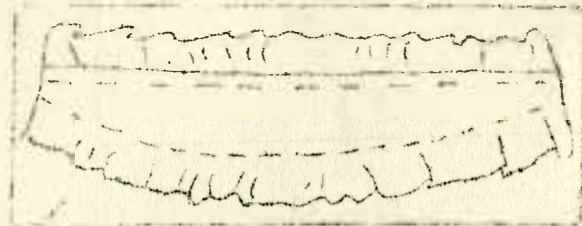


Figure 35 - a tie back for ruffled curtains.

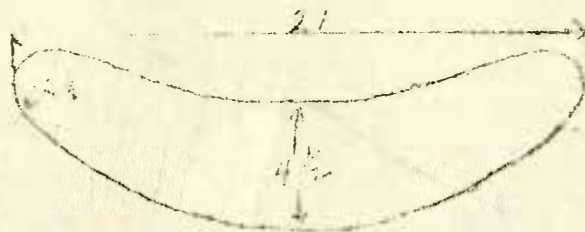


Figure 36 - How to make a plain tie back for curtains. This is lined.

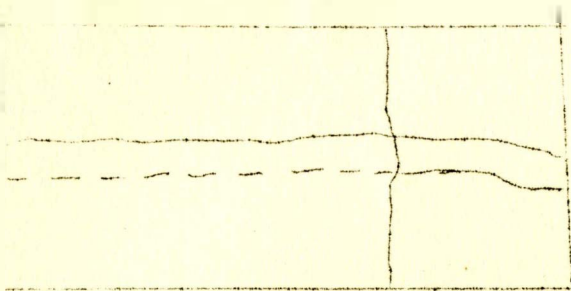


Figure 37 - Casing thru which to run cord.

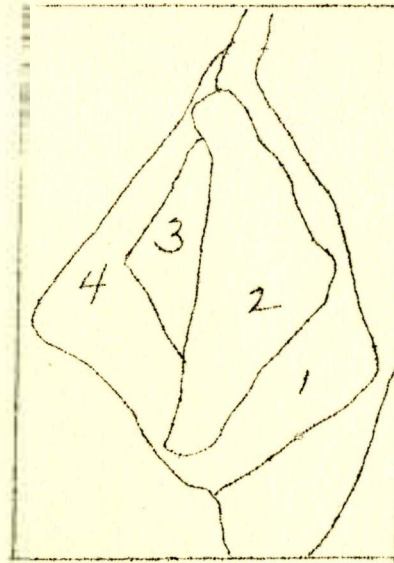


Figure 40 - This diagram shows the correct placing of materials in making heavy draperies.

- 1 - drapery material
- 2 - interlining
- 3 - buckram
- 4 - lining

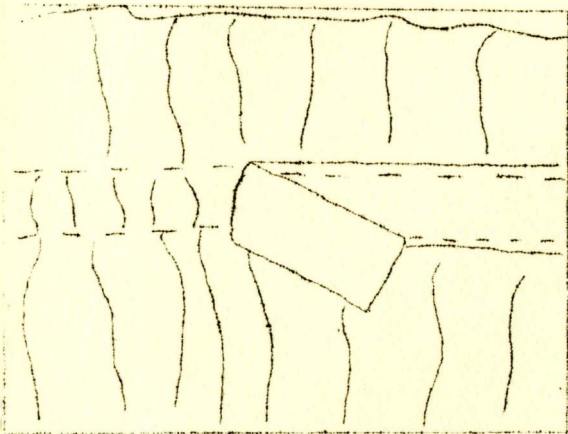


Figure 38 - How to sew on tape to hold gathers in position. Rings or hooks may be sewed on tape.

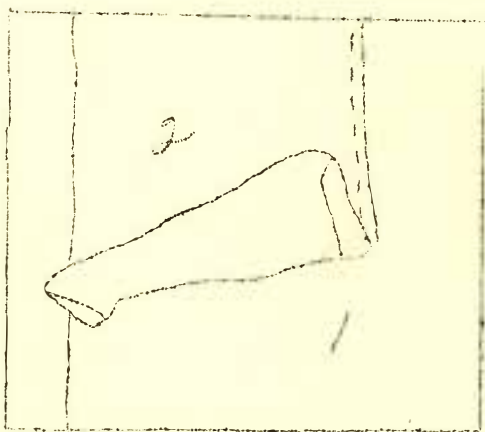


Figure 39 - Facing curtain material.

- 1 - material
- 2 - facing



Figure 41 shows flounce for curtains.

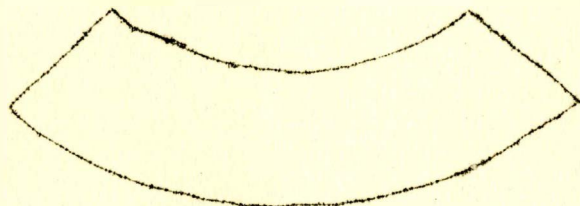


Figure 42 shows how to cut material to get the flounce effect on curtains.